

NCES DOVE UPDATE

DATA ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

VOL. 3 NO. 1 MAY 2001

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE NCES TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL (TRP) ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION



LATEST NEWS

The third annual DOVE TRP meeting was held in Washington, D.C. in April and was a great success! Several work groups were formed and will begin work very soon:

- Designing a 2-year "module" for the National Survey of Postsecondary Faculty (NSOPF);
- Improving NCES' census of area vocational schools in the Common Core of Data (CCD); and
- Thinking ahead to the 12th grade surveys of the Education Longitudinal Study (ELS).

The most recent edition of NCES' *Education Statistics Quarterly* (Winter 2000) highlighted the DOVE system, with an article written by Lisa Hudson (NCES) and commentaries from Marsha Silverberg (National Assessment of Vocational Education) and Gary Hoachlander (MPR Associates).



ONGOING PROJECTS

At the DOVE TRP meeting, we presented preliminary findings from the current analysis of Trends in High School Vocational Coursetaking: 1982–1998, which will be published this fall/winter. Highlights include the following:

- Although participation in vocational education declined after 1982, both vocational and occupational coursetaking leveled off in the 1990s;
- However, the nature of occupational coursetaking has changed, with high school students less likely to take sequential occupational courses and more likely to take a broader mix of occupational courses.

This trend analysis will eventually also look at the participation of special and protected populations.

A current analysis of Adult Work-Related Education uses a broader definition of adult education and of work-related education than has been used in some previous reports. This report, using National Household Education Survey (NHES) data, should be ready this fall/winter.

A *Stats in Brief* analysis of "Employees Who Pursue College Study" has found that employed students who identify themselves primarily as workers are more likely than employed students who identify themselves primarily as students to have left school without attaining their initial education goals, at least when these goals were for longer degree programs.



FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

For the first time in a number of years, *The Condition of Education 2001* will include an indicator on high school vocational coursetaking trends. It highlights some findings from the upcoming 1982–1998 trends report and will be available on the Web in early June.

VOCED FAST FACTS

In 1999, 45 percent of all adults aged 16 and older, or 87.5 million people, participated in formal adult education. About half of these (22 percent or 42.8 million) took a work-related course of study. (For this study, work-related education included only those courses reported in the job/career section of the NHES survey. Also, full-time enrollment in a postsecondary credential program was not considered as adult education and was not included in the analysis.)

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Household Education Survey, 1999. (Numbers were revised from a previous publication [NCES 2000-027] to reflect new weighting.)

Features of Occupational Programs at the Secondary and Postsecondary Education Levels provides national information on occupational program offerings, the use of skill competencies, and other characteristics of occupational programs in public secondary schools and less-than-4-year postsecondary institutions. The report should be released this summer.



UPCOMING ANALYSES

Several datasets become available this summer and will be used in NAVE and/or DOVE analyses:

- The 2000 Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS) will be used to update high school vocational teacher trends from 1988, 1991, and 1994 to 2000;
- The National Education Longitudinal Study (NELS) Fourth Follow-up will provide information on labor market and further education experiences 8 years after high school graduation for the class of 1992;
- The 1999 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS) will update trends in participation in postsecondary vocational education from 1990, 1993, and 1996 to 1999; and
- The 2001 National Household Education Survey (NHES) will provide recent information on adult participation in work-related educational activities.



NOTEWORTHY ITEMS

The former National Association of State Directors of Vocational Technical Education Consortium officially changed its name on May 30 to the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium.

The Education Longitudinal Study (ELS) TRP Meeting will be held on June 19 and 20. Please submit final suggestions for modifying the base-year surveys to Lisa Hudson by June 15.

MPR Associates has submitted a proposal to present a session called "Improving the CCD's Count of Area Vocational Schools" at NCES' Summer Data Conference sponsored by the CCD on July 25–27 in D.C. Go to <http://nces.ed.gov/conferences> for more information.